

REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 33-41 and 52 are pending. Claim 33 has been amended to expedite allowance of preferred embodiments. Support for such amendments may be found at page 20, lines 13-15. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 33-41 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Giese (U.S. Pat. No. 4,709,016). More specifically, the Action states that the '016 patent discloses release tags having the general formula:

S-Re-Rx

where S is a signal group, Re is a release group, and Rx is a reactivity group. The Action also states that the '016 patent discloses that (i) the Rx group allows the release tag to be attached covalently to a substance of interest; (ii) the S group comprises a molecular group or atom that can be detected with high sensitivity and specificity, such as by gas chromatography with electron capture detection (GC-ECD) and by negative chemical ionization mass spectrometry (citing col. 6 of the '016 patent); and (iii) the Re group provides a site for specific chemical release of the S group from attachment to the substance of interest (citing col. 3-4 of the '016 patent). The Action further states that (i) the substance of interest disclosed in the '016 patent is viewed to be inclusive of the molecule of interest (MOI) of the present application (citing col. 7 of the '016 patent); (ii) the examples of the S group recited in claim 2 of the '016 patent are viewed to be inclusive of claim 34 of the present application; and (iii) the examples of the Re group disclosed at col. 5-6 of the '016 patent are viewed to be inclusive of the linker groups recited in claims 35-41 of the present application.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection. Applicants submit that the claims as currently pending are not anticipated by the '016 patent. As indicated above, claim 33 has been amended to specify that the T^{ms}-containing moiety comprises a functional group that

supports a single positively ionized charge state when the compound is subjected to mass spectrometry. Because the '016 patent fails to disclose that its release tags are detectable by positive chemical ionization mass spectrometry, it does not anticipate the claims as currently pending in the present application. In contrast, the primary release tags in the '016 patent are detectable by ECD or negative chemical ionization mass spectrometry, which require the tag groups to be highly electron absorbent to generate a negative molecular ion for detection.

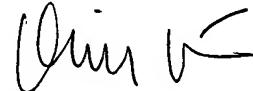
In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that this ground of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Applicants believe that all of the claims remaining in the application (*i.e.*, claims 33-41 and 52) are now allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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